

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 07023 270827Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 6689  
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 7023

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, ET, UR, US  
SUBJECT: PRESS ON SOVIET MILITARY BUILD-UP

1. DECEMBER 24 ETHIOPIAN HERALD FEATURES ARTICLE BY JOURNALIST YACOB WOLDE-MARIAM, AUTHOR IN PAST OF VARIOUS ANTI-US ARTICLES, DEFENDING ETHIOPIA'S RIGHT TO ACQUIRE ARMS FROM ANY QUARTER FOR DEFENDING ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. HE CHARGES INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM WITH ATTEMPTING TO WHIP UP HYSTERIA THROUGH "RIDICULOUS ALLEGATIONS" THAT BIG MILITARY BUILD-UP GOING ON IN ETHIOPIA. WRITER COMPARES THIS EFFORT WITH ITALY'S SUCCESS IN 1935 IN CONNIVING WITH OTHER EUROPEAN POWERS TO THWART ETHIOPIA'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN ARMS TO MEET FASCIST THRUST. HE NOTES THAT US DID NOT TAKE SIMILAR POSITION IN 1939 ABOUT BUILDUP OF ARMS IN THOSE COUNTRIES SOON TO BE VICTIMS OF NAZI AGGRESSION AND ASKED WHETHER INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM EXPECTED ETHIOPIANS TO RESIST SIMILAR AGGRESSOR WITH SWORDS, STICKS, SPEARS AND STONES.

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2. AT SAME TIME, WRITER POINTS OUT, SOVIET UNION WAS ONLY COUNTRY TO ADVOCATE AT LEAGUE OF NATIONS USE OF FORCE TO END FASCIST OCCUPATION OF ETHIOPIA. HE CITES USSR'S CONSISTENT STAND AGAINST COLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM, RACISM, NAZISM, FASCISM, AND SOMALI EXPANSION AND CLAIMS THAT "OUTSTANDING ROLE USSR PLAYING IN SUPPORT OF PRINCIPLES ADVOCATING RESPECT

FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WILL BE INSCRIBED  
IN GOLDEN LETTERS IN ANNALS OF ETHIOPIAN HISTORY."

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WRITER RATHER INDISCRIMINATELY,  
AND NOT UNINTENTIONALLY, BOUNCES BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN  
REFERENCES TO US AND INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM, HIS  
ARGUMENTS ARE SUBTLE ENOUGH TO MAKE GOOD SENSE TO  
ETHIOPIAN READER. COMPARISON OF US POSITION IN 1939  
AND ITS CURRENT CONCERN OVER SOVIET ASSISTANCE COULD  
BE INTERPRETED AS APPEAL TO US TO HOLD TRUE TO ITS  
TRADITIONS.  
MATHERON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009